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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Support account for peacekeeping operations

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General was requested in General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997 to phase out expeditiously gratis personnel throughout the Secretariat. Most affected by this resolution is the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which has relied heavily on the expertise of gratis personnel for the planning, support and day-to-day management of peacekeeping missions.

2. Accelerated procedures have been initiated to ensure the speedy recruitment of staff to replace gratis personnel. Vacancy announcements for all posts proposed for conversion from gratis personnel in the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/52/837 and Corr.1) will be circulated. Based on those procedures, it is anticipated that qualified candidates will be identified and offers of appointment made by December 1998 against posts that would be approved by the General Assembly. The recruitment and placement process will be completed by the end of February 1999.

3. This would enable the phasing out of all gratis personnel currently serving in the Secretariat of the United Nations by 28 February 1999.

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